Dear Decision Maker,

I am writing in regards to my concerns about the pesticide use in Any town/School District/HOA.

As a Decision Maker, it is imperative that you become aware of the growing body of evidence in scientific literature showing that pesticide exposure can adversely affect endocrine, neurological, immune, and respiratory systems in humans, even at very low levels.

Pesticides are designed to be toxic. The suffix 'cide is derived from latin. It means 'to kill'. Of the most commonly used pesticides, 19 are linked with cancer, 21 with reproductive effects, 13 are linked with birth defects, 26 with liver or kidney damage, 15 with neurotoxicity, and 11 with disruption of the endocrine (hormonal) system.

Children are especially sensitive to pesticide exposure. Children take in more pesticides relative to their size and weight, are more physical in their environment, running, touching and playing outdoors, and their bodies and brains are still developing. Acute and chronic, high and low level exposures to chemicals in the environments of children may cause damage during periods of special vulnerability.

**The American Academy of Pediatrics has stated, "…Children's exposure to pesticides should be limited as much as possible."**

**In 2016, dozens of public health experts stated in a scientific consensus statement about children's brain development that, "the current system in the United States for evaluating scientific evidence and making health-based decisions about environmental chemicals is fundamentally broken. To help reduce the unacceptably high prevalence of neurodevelopmental disorders in our children, we must eliminate or significantly reduce exposures to chemicals that contribute to these conditions."**

(include details about specific pesticides being used in your HOA/school/city here)

You can play a key role in protecting those most vulnerable and preventing diseases linked to pesticide exposure. There are proven alternatives to using toxic pesticides in our public spaces/schools/common areas.

Organic land management practices are cost-effective, and are increasingly being implemented in communities throughout the U.S.

Examples include Harvard and Yale Universities, Irvine, California, Springfield, Massachusetts, Montgomery County, Maryland, Yellow Springs, Ohio and many others.

Please find included a cost comparison report between natural organic turf and conventional below. Organic saves money in the long term due to reduced inputs, including the need for less fertilizer and irrigation.

Sincerely yours,

Citizen Resident

## References


Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database http://www.beyondpesticides.org/resources/pesticide-induced-diseases-database/overview

Health effects of 30 commonly used pesticides http://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/lawn/factsheets/30health.pdf

Children and Pesticides Don't Mix http://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/lawn/factsheets/Pesticide.children.dontmix.pdf

"Pesticide exposure in children." Roberts, James R., and Catherine J. Karr. Pediatrics 130.6 (2012): e1765-e1788.

Children's Exposure to Pesticides and Childhood Cancers https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/pages/Children's-Exposure-to-Pesticide-and-Childhood-Cancers.aspx

Children and chemicals, World Health Organization http://www.who.int/ceh/capacity/chemicals.pdf

Project TENDR: Targeting Environmental Neuro-Developmental Risks The TENDR Consensus Statement https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/EHP358

Map of US Pesticide Reform Policies - pesticide policies adopted by local communities https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1VLpVWvifO2JOrgxf1-d1DLyDruE&ll=29.015963011806722%2C-76.59037817578127&z=4

## Resources

A Cost Comparison of Conventional (Chemical) Turf Management and Natural (Organic) Turf Management for School Athletic Fields http://www.grassrootsinfo.org/pdf/turfcomparisonreport.pdf

Beyond Pesticides list of products compatible with organic landscape management https://beyondpesticides.org/programs/lawns-and-landscapes/tools-for-change/products-compatible-with-organic-landscape-management

Non Toxic Communities